

Four Mountain Parks

Update



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MAY 1986







A Message From The Director General, Western Region

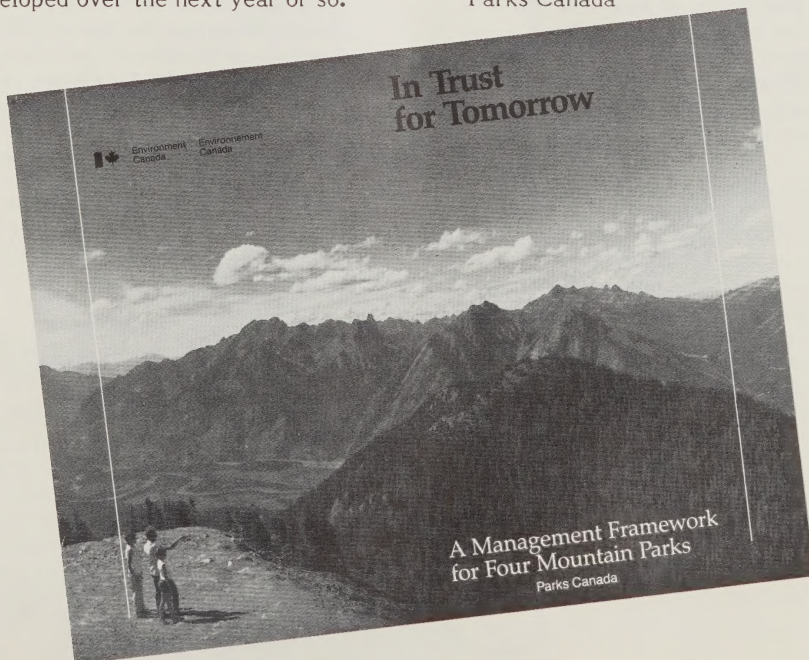
Dear Participant,

The Honourable Tom McMillan, Minister of the Environment, publicly released the planning document "In Trust for Tomorrow: A Management Framework for Four Mountain Parks" in early February. That document was the culmination of almost four years of planning in cooperation with interested citizens and government agencies. The plan sets the general direction for the management of Banff, Jasper, Kootenay and Yoho national parks as well as prescribing the limits within which more detailed individual park management plans will be developed over the next year or so.

This newsletter is intended to help you understand some of the actions underway in the transition from the Management Framework phase to the park management planning phase of the planning program. Future newsletters will keep you informed of how the plan for each park is evolving and particularly to alert you to opportunities to influence the content.

Your participation in previous park planning ventures has been of great value. I encourage you to keep up your interest and seek your further contribution of ideas and opinions as the planning proceeds.

Steve Kun
Director General
Western Region
Parks Canada





Management Framework For Four Mountain Parks Unveiled

Federal Environment Minister Tom McMillan, speaking recently in Calgary, unveiled the long-range framework for the Four Mountain Parks - Banff, Jasper, Kootenay and Yoho.

The planning process began more than four years ago and has included extensive consultation with more than 3,200 individuals and groups who expressed their views about these environmentally significant and popular national parks.

The Minister described the document as the "result of four years of nation-wide consultation. It deals with growing pressures to accommodate visitors, while maintaining the heritage and environmental values of the parks."

Entitled, "In Trust for Tomorrow: A Management Framework for Four Mountain Parks", the document will guide the protection, management, development and planning of Banff, Jasper, Kootenay and Yoho for the next 15 years. Individual park management plans will now be developed for each of the four parks based on the direction in the Management Framework.

The primary emphasis of the Management Framework is the protection of the natural and cultural resources of the four parks. This protection will take precedence, when conflicts occur, over increased use and development. At the same time, strategies are provided for responding to increased use, within defined limits, and for expanding the range of appropriate park opportunities. These strategies will be achieved by improving, expanding and redeveloping existing facilities and services. Facilities in new locations will be established only in special circumstances and where no serious environmental damage will result.

Copies of the Management Framework were mailed to all individuals and groups on the mailing list for the Four Mountain Parks Planning Program. Many others also requested copies following the Minister's announcement of his approval of the document. As a result, the demand for copies exceeded the original supply and a second printing was necessary. If you have not yet received your copy, please contact;

Syd Moore
Public Consultation Coordinator
520-220 4th Avenue S.E.
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 3H8





Implementing The Management Framework

The Management Framework provides general direction for the protection, management, use and development of Banff, Jasper, Kootenay and Yoho national parks over the next 15 years. It represents an unique step in national park planning.

The Management Framework provides an intermediate level of direction between Parks Canada's 1979 policy document and a park management plan. Management plans are normally based on the direction of Parks Canada Policy and the context of a given park. In the case of the Four Mountain Parks, the management plans will be based on the direction of the Management Framework, which, in turn, was based on Parks Canada Policy.

In most instances, the direction contained in the Management Framework will be further clarified in each of the four park management plans. There are some exceptions, and these are outlined below.

snowmobiling

The Management Framework contains a prohibition on recreational snowmobiling in these parks. No further elaboration of the matter is required in the individual park management plans. This prohibition will take effect beginning in the 1986-1987 winter season.

airstrips

The Minister announced, as part of the Management Framework, that the retention of the Jasper and Banff airstrips was not appropriate. He stated, however, that if it could be demonstrated they were required for emergency landing purposes, they would be retained for that purpose only.

Officials of the Department of Environment and the Ministry of Transport are initiating a joint study to consider the matter. The study findings will be contained in the Jasper and Banff park management plans.

No facilities or storage of aircraft would be permitted at the airstrips if they are retained for emergency landings.

redevelopment guidelines for outlying commercial accommodation (O.C.A. s)

The Management Framework states that existing outlying commercial accommodation facilities (OCAs) in the parks are permitted to expand to the capacity of their leaseholds, subject to redevelopment guidelines to be prepared by Parks Canada. Provisional guidelines are complete and available for public review. These guidelines are effective immediately and replace the 20 percent limit on expansion which has been in effect since 1981. At the end of this year, the provisional guidelines will be assessed based on public comments, any necessary changes will be made, and they will be finalized.



If you would like to comment on the provisional guidelines, a copy may be obtained by checking off the appropriate box on the enclosed mail-back form and returning it to Parks Canada.

The intent of the guidelines is to permit the redevelopment of existing OCAs so they can continue to provide a viable type of visitor accommodation in the Four Mountain Parks. The guidelines provide the parameters within which Parks Canada is willing to consider redevelopment and contain specific direction regarding environmental considerations, amount of development, permitted uses, building height, parking, heritage character, landscaping, setbacks, aesthetics and access for the disabled.

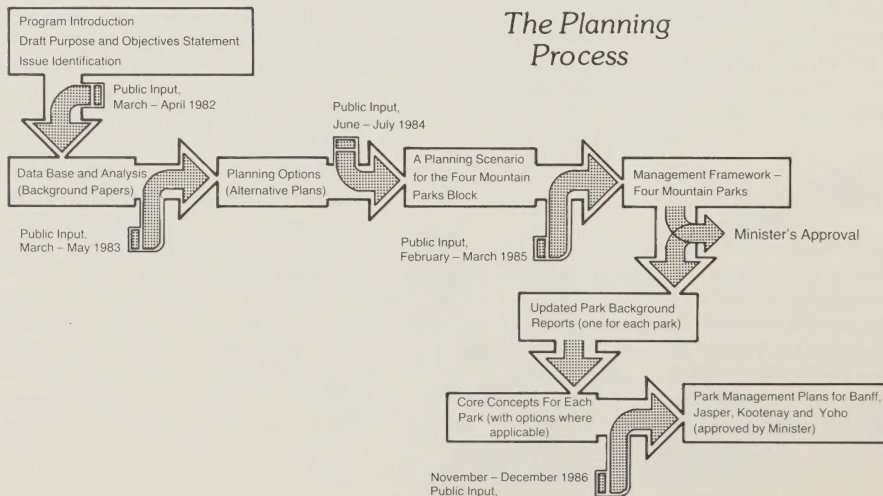
The OCA redevelopment guidelines were prepared at this time in order to allow facility owners to proceed with redevelopment proposals and take advantage of current Federal funding for tourist facility development. Waiting for the completion of the four park management plans in 1987 would have resulted in an unacceptable delay.

Preparing The Park Management Plans

The purpose of the Four Mountain Parks Planning Program is to prepare park management plans for Banff, Jasper, Kootenay and Yoho national parks. Once Environment Minister Tom McMillan released his Management Framework, Parks Canada planners began work on individual park management plans. These individual plans will be completed by 1987.

The first step was the preparation and approval of terms of reference for this new stage of the program. The terms of reference are summarized below. The detailed version of these terms of reference are available upon request from;

Syd Moore
Public Consultation Coordinator
520-220 4th Avenue S.E.
Calgary, Alberta
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Summary Of The Terms Of Reference

program objectives

The objectives for this second stage of the program are;

1. to develop strategies that achieve the direction outlined in the Management Framework,
2. to prepare individual park plans which are based on a recognition of the parks' inter-related ecological systems, visitor use patterns and regional relationships,
3. to obtain, analyse and consider public opinion in the formulation of plan proposals, and
4. to ensure that the environmental, social and economic implications of the plan proposals are properly identified and considered.

The first objective requires some elaboration. The individual park management plans will contain strategies for achieving the direction contained in the Management Framework. In some special cases, however, this may not be appropriate in a particular park or park area. This circumstance is acceptable provided that it is adequately substantiated and the direction is achieved for the four park block. This kind of deviation will be uncommon and will be subject to public review.

relationship with other programs

A number of separate initiatives are being undertaken which directly affect the park management planning program. These programs are 1) the community plans for Banff and Jasper, and 2) the ski area plans.

Separate planning programs are being initiated for the communities of Banff and Jasper. This is necessary because of the complexity of land use issues within their boundaries. Land use issues associated with the areas surrounding the town boundaries will be considered in the appropriate park management plan.

Separate planning programs are also on-going for each of the four ski areas - Mount Norquay, Sunshine, Lake Louise and Marmot Basin. The park management plans will address any implications of the ski areas on surrounding park lands.





program description

In general, the preparation of individual park management plans will follow standard Parks Canada planning procedures. First, we will update and fill any gaps in our data base. This work is already well under way. Second, we will develop and analyse some options for achieving the direction contained in the Management Framework. Third, we will provide our final proposals for the consideration of the Minister. These final proposals will be contained in the draft management plans.

Individuals familiar with some of Parks Canada's other planning programs will find several variations from the normal program design. These deviations are the result of the vast amount of information already gathered and the existence of the Management Framework. For instance, no park purpose and objectives statements will be prepared. These were developed for the four parks as a block and approved in 1983. Nothing would be gained by writing individual statements for each park.

Similarly, the alternative plan concept stage of the program will be modified because planning options were reviewed by both Parks Canada and the public in 1984.

As well, the Management Framework greatly reduces the range of options that could be considered. Consequently, specific planning options will be developed only where legitimate choices exist, and a "Core Concept" will be developed for each park. The Core Concepts will contain the planning proposals for each park.

The program stages, time-frame, products and approval authorities are shown below. The program for each of the four parks will be carried out simultaneously. The purpose, mechanisms and timing of public consultation at each stage of the program are outlined in the following section.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

(completed)

DATA BASE ANALYSIS

Completion Date – June 1986

Products – Background Information Reports for each park

CORE CONCEPTS

(usually referred to as Alternative Plan Concepts)

Completion Date – Draft copies by the end of August 1986

Products – Core Concept for each park, with options where applicable

PARK MANAGEMENT PLANS

Completion Date – Draft Copies by March 1987

Products – Four draft Park Management Plans

– Approval by the Minister of the Environment



Public Consultation

Public consultation remains one of the key elements in the planning process and public comments are viewed as critical to the success of any planning program. Comments received from members of the public and special interest groups (conservation organizations, tourism industry representatives, business groups and recreational organizations) will continue to be sought and carefully considered. It should be noted, however, that comments, advice and recommendations provided by other federal agencies, provincial governments and Parks Canada personnel are also considered to be important contributions to the planning process.

In circumstances where decisions are made in the Four Mountain Parks program that are contrary to obtained public opinion, we will explain publicly the reasons for the position that has been taken.

In conducting the public consultation program, every attempt will be made;

- o to maintain continued public interest and involvement,
- o to solicit comments from a broad range of people including special interest groups, government and commercial interests,
- o to clarify the role of public opinion in the planning and decision-making process,
- o to keep the public informed of the planning program status throughout its duration,

- o to provide summaries of all comments, suggestions and opinions received throughout the course of the program, and
- o to assume accountability for responding to public comments in the development of the park management plans.

The public consultation program will focus on all three major stages of the planning program. These stages, the purpose of public consultation at a particular stage, and the mechanisms for consultation are summarized below.

In addition, meetings may be held as requested or required with individuals, interest groups or agencies to discuss specific issues or provide information.



data base analysis

Members of the public will be informed of environmental and socio-economic factors pertinent to the formulation of plan proposals. Public comment will not be solicited at this stage, although requests for clarification will receive a response from Parks Canada.

Summaries of detailed background reports (one for each park) will be sent to interested participants. Participants can request specific summary reports by returning the mail-back card enclosed with this newsletter. Summary background reports will be available as they are completed, between late June and the end of September. The detailed background reports will also be available on request.



core concepts

At this stage of the planning program, the core plans and options for each park will be presented for public review and comment. A public summary of all comments and submissions received will be provided soon after.

Four separate documents containing the core plans and options will be sent to all individuals and groups on the program mailing list. Public meetings will be held in Banff, Jasper, Radium, Calgary and Edmonton. A meeting may be held in Vancouver if there is sufficient public interest.

All four core concept documents will be mailed out by late October, 1986. Meetings will be conducted in late November and early December.

plan completion

At this stage, the public will be informed of the contents of the park management plans after their approval by the Minister. (Public comments will not be solicited. This decision is based on the fact that public comments have been gathered and analyzed on five previous occasions. Serious concerns may still be directed to the attention of the Regional Director General or the Minister.)

Copies of the plan summaries will be mailed to individuals and organizations who have participated in the planning program. The detailed plan documents will also be available on request.

It is anticipated that the approved park management plan summaries will be distributed in the fall of 1987.

Dam Collapse At Johnson Lake

Controversy has surrounded Johnson Lake in Banff since a dam at the lake's outlet collapsed in early February. As a result of the collapse, the lake's water level has dropped about 1.75 metres. Now about three of the previous eight hectares are dry.

Johnson Lake has a history of water level manipulation through damming dating back to at least 1930. Fish stocking has occurred for an even longer period. Since the late 1950s the dam has served no other purpose than to increase fishery potential. In spite of various inducements, Johnson Lake has not provided a productive fishery. Nonetheless, the lake is popular with fishermen, as well as picnickers, sunbathers and swimmers.

Parks Canada is evaluating the consequences of not making expensive repairs to the dam. This option would likely diminish the quality of sport fishing and reduce the quality of picnicking at the west end of the lake. Swimming could still occur. On the other hand, not rebuilding the dam will produce useful wildlife habitat and increase interpretive potential.

The preferred present action, following an assessment of options, is to create a spillway in the outflow at the former dam site. The preferred action will be inexpensive, and will raise the level of the lake somewhat while maintaining a natural, unregulated outflow. Over the summer, fish populations, oxygen

levels and visitor use will be monitored at the lake. A public meeting will be held in the fall to present the results of the summer's monitoring, and gather public comments. A decision on further action will then be made.

If you have any concerns or comments about this approach, please direct them to:

The Superintendent
Banff National Park
Box 900
Banff, Alberta
T0L 0C0

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FOUR MOUNTAIN PARKS

Five Year Plan Update:

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND PARKS CANADA'S COMMENTS

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CONSULTANT'S NOTE: How Public Comment was Handled

Praxis Inc., an independent consulting firm, was retained by Parks Canada to assist in developing and implementing a public consultation program for the Four Mountain Parks Five Year Plan Update. An inherent part of large public consultation programs is the vast amount of qualitative or subjective information gathered. Organizations are often overwhelmed by the amount of information generated and consequently, under-use or fail to adequately use it. The challenge for most organizations is to efficiently and effectively analyze quantitative data and incorporate it into the decision-making process.

Two written public input formats were developed. The first was a series of "issue focused" open-ended comment sheets such as "Backcountry Management" or "Lake Louise Community." This format helped those who attended the public open houses or those who requested information packages to direct their comments to one of the thirty major issue areas under review. The second format was an open-ended general comment sheet for those respondents who wanted to comment on more than one issue.

Comment on the plan review was also received in the form of letter writing campaigns and petitions. A series of letter writing campaigns were focused on particular issues. As the letters may have also discussed other concerns, each letter was entered into the database and analyzed with all other responses to provide a complete understanding of the issue. By incorporating all of the letters into the database, these qualitative, open-ended comments were included in the analysis.

To analyze the response to each issue, the following process was used. A computer search using either "key word" or "context" searching of the database was completed for each issue. Output from each search was read, and "similar" comments were grouped into categories. From this, major issues, themes and qualitative information was recorded. The result of this process was that the richness of

the public response was captured in addition to identifying the most commonly stated messages.

Petitions were handled in a slightly different manner. The petitions focused on one particular viewpoint and numerical count could be easily completed. However, very few open ended comments accompanied the petition, so little additional value could be incorporated beyond the numerical count.

Although Parks Canada identified and presented issues common to the Four Mountain Parks and issues specific to the individual parks, after public comment was analyzed, it was noted that several other issues were of interest and concern to the public. The section in this newsletter entitled "New Issues" addressed many of these; however, there was one issue which gained significant attention and often set the tone or theme for discussion of other topics. This was the general issue of "development" in the Four Mountain Parks. Development was mentioned as an issue in itself and was an inherent part of other issues. This included reference to large scale development projects, town developments, and very small scale backcountry development issues. From the comments analyzed, it is evident there is public sentiment that these four national parks should not be developed further. Of those who commented directly on the development issue, there was an approximate 3:1 ratio opposing further development of the parks. The common wording was "No more development." Of those who supported development, it seemed tourism and economic development were of prime concern. Many people reminded Parks Canada that parks are for people too, but these concerns were more of an access issue than a development issue.

The public comment in this newsletter consists of the summarized content of submissions received by September 7, 1994. They appear in the shaded boxes entitled "Here is what we heard."

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Four Mountain Park Management Plan Update

The public consultation process for the Four Mountain Park Management Plan Review has been active over the summer months. Many people like yourself, took time to comment on the issues affecting the parks and gave us your opinions.

This is the second in a series of newsletters designed to keep you informed on the progress of the Management Plan Review for Banff, Jasper, Kootenay and Yoho national parks. Last spring, Parks Canada identified several issues affecting the Four Mountain Parks and presented them for public comment. This newsletter provides a summary of your responses - what you thought about the issues and your suggestions for managing them - along with Parks Canada's recommended course of action. The newsletter is also designed to provide you with some insight into the planning process for the Four Mountain Parks, and to give you further opportunity to present your concerns, opinions, and ideas on the future management of these parks. Through the various forums and discussions held on the Plan Update, new issues were brought to our attention and are presented within.

The plan review for the Four Mountain Parks is nearing completion. Public comments received as of the official deadline have been analyzed by an independent consultant. Parks Canada continues to receive comments; these comments and the response from this newsletter, will be used to write draft management plan amendments. The draft amendments will be presented in a Plan Update and forwarded to Michel Dupuy, Minister of Canadian Heritage, in the winter for his consideration. Any further comments you may have are welcome by January 31, 1995.

Copies of the Plan Update will be available through Parks Canada, libraries, and other learning institutions across the country, and will be provided on a cost-recovery basis. If you would like to request a copy of the approved Four Mountain Parks Management Plan Update, available in the spring of 1995, please contact:

Public Consultation Coordinator
Department of Canadian Heritage, Parks Canada
P.O. Box 2989, Station M
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 3H8

Thank you for participating in the Four Mountain Park Management Plan Update. Parks Canada will continue to consult with you in the future on the management of this World Heritage Site and one of the cornerstones of our Canadian Heritage.



Gaby Fortin
Director, Rocky Mountain District

Plan Review Process



NOTE: Deadline for public comment on the second newsletter is January 31, 1995.



I. Plan Review and Public Involvement



Management Plan Review

The existing management plans for Banff, Jasper, Kootenay, and Yoho national parks were completed in 1988 after an extensive public planning program. These widely supported plans are important tools in the overall protection and management of the Four Mountain Parks. Recently, Parks Canada undertook the first review of the plans for the Four Mountain Parks. According to the *National Parks Act*, management plans must be reviewed every five years. As proposals for park management plan revisions are refined, each will be assessed for its potential effects to the cultural and ecological integrity of the parks through an environmental assessment process.

The goals of the Four Mountain Park Management Plan review are to:

- ensure management plans reflect amendments to the *National Parks Act* 1988 and the Parks Canada policy *Guiding Principles and Operational Policies* 1994,
- seek public views on issues relating to the Four Mountain Parks as a whole and park specific issues that require immediate attention and
- introduce key strategies and management principles, such as public education, ecosystem management, sustainable tourism, etc., for the future direction of the Four Mountain Parks.

Public Involvement Program

A source of pride for Canadians, Banff, Jasper, Kootenay and Yoho national parks are strong symbols of Canadian identity. Recognized internationally as a World Heritage Site, the natural beauty of this world class tourist destination is enjoyed by millions every year. These parks make a substantial contribution to the economies of Alberta and British Columbia. Careful management of them, in ways that encourage public enjoyment while ensuring long-term ecological integrity, is essential to maintaining this Rocky Mountain heritage. Through visitor experience, parks serve to enrich the lives of Canadians, enhancing our identity and strengthening our appreciation of the land and our common heritage.

National parks are a public resource, the care and maintenance of which rests in the hands of Canadians. Involvement of members of the public, with various perspectives and interests, has always been an important part of managing the parks. It is Parks Canada's responsibility to ensure that the public has full opportunity to voice ideas and contribute to the future of the national parks. The time and energy people put into participating in this process is highly valued.

Along with public participation, decisions regarding management plan issues are also assessed based on:

- consistency with and support for Parks Policy and *National Parks Act*, and other relevant federal legislation
- respect for public safety and
- promotion of and contribution to the ecological and commemorative integrity of the parks.

Our aim in the update of the plan was to involve as many people as possible in productive and open discussions. To encourage effective two-way communication a number of different approaches were used. They included:

- Media:

Press releases, national and local advertising and radio announcements were used to inform people of their opportunities to participate and how they could obtain more information on the plan review.

- Public Information:

Project newsletters, information papers, and brochures were prepared and distributed to a wide audience at key stages of the project.

- Public Open Houses:

Twelve open houses were held at communities in and around the parks, allowing people to express their concerns and opinions directly with senior park staff.

- Discussion sessions:

Discussions were held upon request with interested groups, organizations, and various levels of government in an attempt to discuss different view points and arrive at workable solutions.

- Written submissions:

Written submissions were invited and encouraged through the public consultation process. These submissions provided an opportunity for people, who were unable to attend the open house, to have input into the process.

- Third Party Analysis:

In order to ensure an independent analysis of the comments and the perspectives they presented, all comments received by Parks Canada were analyzed by an independent consultant and will be placed on permanent record.

To date, involvement in the plan update has been very encouraging:

- Approximately 10,000 copies of the first newsletter were distributed.
- More than 1,200 people attended the open houses.
- Six formal discussions and several informal discussions were held with various organizations and government agencies.
- 2,959 written submissions have been received including six letter writing campaigns and several petitions on two topics.
- Through the summer, the mailing list for the Four Mountain Parks planning program grew from 2,500 to more than 6,000 names.

Your involvement has given Parks Canada a better understanding of Canadians' concerns and hopes for the future of the Four Mountain Parks. With the input received, we feel that we are well on the way to achieving the goals of the review process in a manner that is responsive to public opinion and supportive of our long-term commitment to maintaining the parks for future generations. Thank-you.

II. Your Comments



The amount and quality of public input was encouraging. We heard informed and heartfelt comments on all of the issues from avid park goers, professionals in a variety of fields, people from across Canada and international visitors. No matter what the perspective or comment, people agreed on one thing: the importance of the parks to our natural and cultural heritage and the need to manage them so that they will be protected, enjoyed and utilized by all Canadians.



This section of the newsletter is organized into four main categories: issues for the Four Mountain Block, new issues, issues involving two parks and park specific issues. Public comment, summarized by an independent consulting firm, appears in the shaded boxes. The responses by Parks Canada represent the approach that will be taken when the amendments are drafted, upon the conclusion of public consultation.

Four Mountain Parks Issues

Ecosystem Based Management

One of the most important considerations on which Parks Canada sought comment, and one new to most Canadians, is that of ecosystem based management. This topic generated a lot of interest during the planning program, and at times opposing view points were heard. Such debate was viewed as a healthy and productive step in arriving at workable solutions to the complex issues facing the parks.

Here is what we heard:

Respondents overwhelmingly supported Parks Canada's ecosystem based management approach. While many respondents considered ecosystem based management a positive direction, equally as many people felt it was necessary for Parks Canada to remember that parks are also for people. A balanced approach to planning is considered necessary where ecosystems and national parks are for enjoyment by users.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- Over the past few years our understanding of natural systems and the role that people play in them has greatly improved. Decision-making on ecosystem based management will take into account the role of National Parks policy in the regional ecosystem and the connections among people, cultural resources and natural systems.

- It is our belief at Parks Canada that ecosystem based management represents a positive advancement in the way we think about and manage these national resources. Ecosystem based management recognizes that people, the economy and the environment are inter-related, dependent upon and connected to each other for survival. The goal is the maintenance of a healthy natural environment, providing us and the natural species of the area, with the resources needed to thrive, and at the same time, promoting a sense of Canadian identity and conservation of natural systems. This requires a broad perspective that considers the social, economic and ecological well-being of an area. It is an approach emphasizing the connections in nature and the importance of people as part of nature.

Ecosystem based management includes:

- working with others to share information, advice, and ideas in developing coordinated land use management strategies. Social, economic, and environmental concerns are viewed from an integrated perspective.
- viewing the Four Mountain Parks as part of the larger ecosystem. Ecosystem management does not mean expanding park boundaries or creating buffer zones. Rather, ecosystem based management means integrating national parks into the broader landscape context. National parks make a valuable contribution to the sustainability of regional ecosystems.
- people as part of the ecosystem. Within an ecologically based zoning system, the influence of people varies from zone to zone. People are the predominant influence in towns and visitor centres, while nature is the dominant force in wilderness areas. The impact of people needs to be considered in all decisions related to the ecosystem.



Regional Integration

During public consultations we asked for comment on the importance of Parks Canada working with others.

Here is what we heard:

There is overwhelming support by the public for Parks Canada to work and cooperate with provincial governments and concerned agencies with regard to the Four Mountain Parks' management issues. Most believe that this cooperation is essential to ecosystem based management with a focus on protecting the ecological integrity of the Four Mountain Park block.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- Supporting regional integration and working cooperatively with others is central to the principles of ecosystem based management. The current management plans provide sound direction on this. Parks Canada will continue to coordinate land use strategies with various land authorities and identify the role that each party plays in the achievement of agreed upon objectives eg. Jasper-Hinton Model Forest Project, and the Central Rockies Ecosystem Inter-Agency Liaison Group.

Vision

Parks Canada invited people to comment on their vision for the four mountain parks.

Here is what we heard:

Generally, two types of comments were received on this issue. First, comments suggested that the Four Mountain Parks be managed as a single, comprehensive unit with room for site specific management. Second, comments reflected the public's personal views of what the vision statement for the Four Mountain Parks should be. The most common included words to the effect of: "Parks Canada should, as a priority, preserve and protect an intact, functioning ecosystem in perpetuity."

Parks Canada's Comments:

- Parks Canada will continue to work with the public and interested parties to develop a vision for the Four Mountain Parks. The Banff Bow Valley Study provides an excellent forum to establish a shared and successful future for this part of the parks.
- The Four Mountain Parks, as part of an important World Heritage Site, will continue to be a source of pride for Canadians, providing links to our natural and cultural heritage.
- For residents and visitors, it is Parks Canada's hope that principles of appreciation, respect, and cooperation will continue to guide relationships.

Sustainable Tourism

A discussion paper outlining a strategy to address the role and place of tourism in the Four Mountain Parks was presented for public comment.

Here is what we heard:

The majority of comments received were on the side of ensuring that Parks Canada's first priority is to protect the environment, ensure the ecosystem remains intact and that developments such as malls, golf courses, ski hills, pools, etc. are prohibited or greatly restricted. Many believe Parks Canada should encourage responsible sustainable, low impact ecotourism.

A letter writing campaign contributed to the results and was taken into consideration in the final analysis.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- Tourism and personal experiences of the parks are essential to achieving the fundamental mandate of national parks.
- Based on public comment and working with stakeholders, revised principles and strategies are being prepared and are available. The strategy will focus on the following principles:
 - The development of regulatory and management practices which ensure the continued long-term stability and competitiveness of the industry
 - The development of products and services based on the heritage values of the parks, emphasising authenticity, quality and sustainability
 - Increasing public awareness of park values, for example, communicate park messages/information prior to and during a park visit, and
 - Measuring social and economic benefits and impacts of heritage related tourism through market research.



Fiscal Restraint

The federal government's commitment to fiscal restraint will require new approaches and solutions.

Here is what we heard:

This issue received a wide variety of comments. Approximately one in every four comments addressing this issue supported user pay fees for park services and use. Other common statements mentioned that Parks Canada should:

- not get carried away with generating revenue at the expense of the environment/ecological integrity of the parks
- ensure revenue from all sources generated in the parks stays in the parks
- the tax system should be sufficient to operate the parks and
- be more fiscally responsible.

Parks Canada's Comments:

Parks Canada recognizes the importance of fiscal restraint and has made the principle a priority in its operations.

- A plan is being developed to improve how the four national parks are managed by providing greater flexibility and opportunity in the delivery of services and allocation of resources. Services will be redirected to ensure they are more client oriented and will continue to be delivered in a professional manner.
- Services provided for the public good will continue to be maintained from general tax revenue; services for private benefit, e.g. hotpools, back country facilities etc. will be maintained through a fee-for-service system.

Backcountry Management

A unified backcountry management plan for the Four Mountain Parks is being prepared and people were asked for their comments on the issue. The strong concern over user fees was a new issue for Parks Canada and is addressed in this newsletter, under "New Issues".

Here is what we heard:

This issue generated a lot of response, primarily from individual members of the public. Within this issue, the topic most often commented on was backcountry user fees. Other popular topics included general access issues, ecosystem based management principles, and reservation system possibilities.

Access - Restrict access to some areas in the backcountry and vulnerable ecosystem areas needing rehabilitation.

Ecosystem based management - Ecological integrity must be a priority.

Reservation system - Most respondents to this issue were in favour of a reservation system.

The results of a letter writing campaign were taken into consideration for the final comment analysis.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- A single Backcountry Management Plan will be developed to provide a consistent approach to backcountry activities in the Four Mountain Parks. Public comments and suggestions received will help to guide the contents of this plan.
- The plan will enhance visitor experience by addressing issues of appropriate backcountry use.

Related Programs

We asked for comment on a number of programs related to, but not included in the Four Mountain Parks Management Plan Update. These included: the Banff Bow Valley Study, the Canadian Pacific Land Exchange Proposal, the Trans Canada Highway Twinning, Columbia Icefield development, and the Trans Alta Utilities upgrade.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- Each of the programs mentioned above is currently proceeding through a separate review /consultation processes. The comments received have been forwarded to the appropriate programs for consideration in their planning processes. Notification of public meetings for these processes will appear in local and regional newspapers.

Park Access From Adjacent Lands

Uncontrolled air and land access from adjacent lands to park boundaries is of concern to Parks Canada. At the open houses we also received comments regarding overflights.

Here is what we heard:

The majority of respondents agreed that park access must be limited - in certain forms, in certain areas and at certain times. Other respondents wanted to reinforce the importance of working with the provincial governments in the overall management of the parks.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- Parks Canada will continue to work closely with relevant provincial authorities to define inter-agency backcountry management units and establish common management objectives and strategies for these units.

- Preferred corridors for scenic overflights will be identified, based on optimal visitor experiences and ecological integrity. Parks Canada will work with controlling agencies and sightseeing companies to encourage adherence to these corridors.



Four Mountain Park House-keeping Issues:

These are issues of a modest nature that either did not generate significant discussion or pertain to operational matters, but require amending to update the plans.

Public Safety

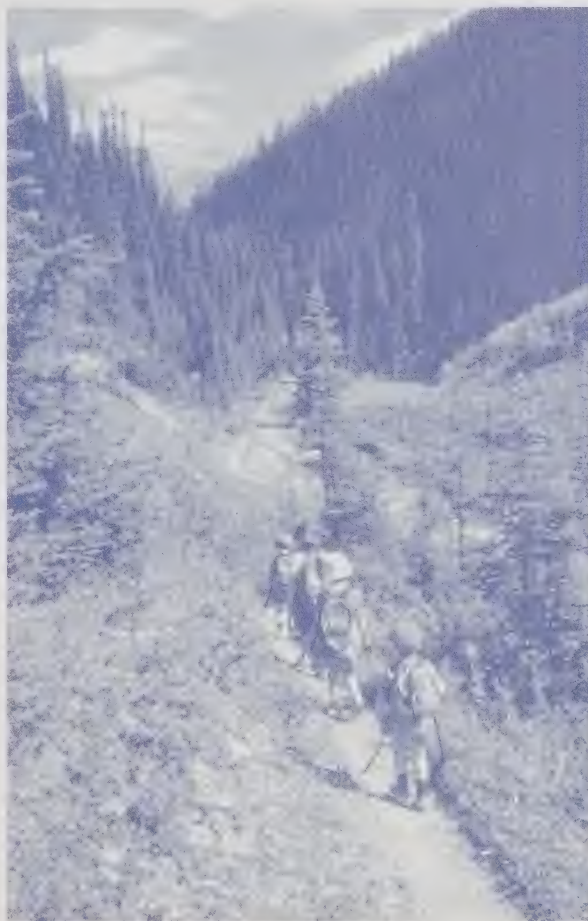
Public safety is a shared responsibility. Visitors must exhibit a degree of self-reliance and responsibility commensurate with the degree of activities they undertake. This involves knowledge of natural hazards, proper equipment and provisions, adequate levels of skill and fitness and the ability to cope with emergencies one might reasonably expect to encounter. Parks Canada responsibilities are directed at avoiding accidents through its accident prevention programs. This includes employing risk control options e.g. posting of warning signs, removal of hazards, etc., providing timely and accurate information on park conditions, and applying public safety criteria in the design of facilities and activities in the parks. To reflect this approach to public safety, references will be updated in individual park plans on this matter.

Heritage Rivers

Three rivers in the Four Mountain Parks have been designated as Canadian Heritage Rivers: Kicking Horse River in Yoho National Park, the Athabasca River in Jasper National Park, and the North Saskatchewan River in Banff National Park. The management plans for these parks will be formally recognized as the required management plans for the heritage rivers.

Parks Canada Staff Housing

The provision of housing for Parks Canada staff is a responsibility for each national park. Parks Canada will continue to assess the need for housing for park staff who are required to live in the park. Decisions will be made as required on the basis of providing this housing as well as making improvements to and capital investments in the existing housing supply.



New Issues

Several new issues were brought to our attention during discussions and meetings in the plan review.

Closures

One of the key messages we heard was your concern with the closure of facilities and areas in the parks. While most people appreciated the need to close facilities, trails etc. on a temporary basis for resource protection or public safety purposes, others felt that closures were being undertaken without adequate consultation and limited their park experience.



Here is what we heard:

Comments regarding trail closures were easily grouped into three streams of thought. These included: opposition to trail and area closures, support for closures, and support for temporary closures only. Many other respondents offered other suggestions for protecting an area and finally, due to a letter writing campaign initiated by the commercial operators of a backcountry lodge, many disclosed their opposition to the trail closures in that region.

As an aside to the closure issue, many people commented on the “rumour” that some of the parks will be closed to users. These comments were not tabulated as they did not pertain specifically to trail or specific area closures. Parks Canada should be aware however, that this perception exists.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- Temporary closures will be applied only where absolutely necessary for reasons of public safety (e.g. avalanche hazard or aggressive wildlife in an area) or to protect sensitive natural or cultural resources (e.g. wolf denning sites or archaeological dig sites). Temporary closures and the reasons behind them will be better communicated in the future.
- Permanent closures will only be undertaken as a result of the management plan review process and public participation.

User Fees

The recent implementation of user fees for backcountry use surprised many park users. This was, in part, due to poor communication of the intent and details of the proposal. Further explanation of the user fee concept and the direct role of fees in supporting backcountry activities was well received.

Here is what we heard:

There was strong support for the implementation of user fees, provided that the revenue goes directly into backcountry operations. However, many that supported user fees believed the proposed \$5.00/person fee is too high and offered alternatives.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- In response to suggestions we heard, the user fee system has been adjusted to include a backcountry season's pass rate.
- A national strategy will explore fully the issue of user fees, incorporating the comments and ideas we have received.

Aboriginal Land Claims

There are ongoing land claims negotiations between the federal government and Aboriginal communities in Alberta and British Columbia. The resolution of these land claim processes may result in changes to the Four Mountain Park Management Plans.



Issues involving two parks

Banff and Yoho

Highway 1A west of Lake Louise

Parks Canada proposed to close this road to motor vehicles and revert it to a bicycle trail due to its low use and the high cost of required improvements. The maintenance of vehicular access from Yoho National Park to the Great Divide site was being considered.

Here is what we heard:

There was an approximate 4:1 ratio of comments supporting the closure of the 1A highway west of Lake Louise and converting it to a bicycle and hiking trail versus keeping the road open to vehicular traffic. However, there was also a high degree of support for keeping vehicular access from Yoho to the Great Divide.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- The Banff National Park portion of highway 1A (west of Lake Louise) will be converted to a bicycle/pedestrian pathway. Design consideration will be made to enable other emergency uses. Vehicular access will be maintained from the Lake O'Hara access road in Yoho National Park to the Great Divide picnic area. Opportunities for cross country skiing will continue to be provided in the winter season.

Banff and Jasper

Airstrips

The current management plan states that the airstrips in Banff and Jasper will be used only for emergency/diversionary purposes. Parks Canada proposed developing options to examine the future role of these facilities.

Here is what we heard:

From the comments received, approximately half of the respondents mentioned closing one or both of the airstrips compared to approximately one third of the respondents who mentioned keeping one or both of the airstrips open. Others suggested that one or both of the airstrips should be kept open only for emergency landings. Generally, the Banff airstrip issue received more comments than the Jasper airstrip.

Organizations held the viewpoint of keeping the airstrips open. Individual members of the general public more consistently suggested that the airstrips be closed.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- Consultation with Transport Canada and the Banff Bow Valley Study Task Force on the Banff and Jasper airstrips is ongoing. Upon conclusion of these consultations, Parks Canada will present recommendations as to the future use of these facilities. In the interim, use of the airstrips will continue under the current arrangement. A separate issue package will be sent to you containing updated information and comments on the issue.

Park Specific Issues

Banff National Park



1. Banff Bow Valley Study

A comprehensive study of the Bow Valley was initiated by the Minister of Canadian Heritage earlier this year. The study will focus on long-term management of the area in a manner which will achieve the maintenance of ecological integrity, while allowing appropriate levels of development and continued access for visitors.

Here is what we heard:

There is virtually complete support for this study and the fact that it is considering the cumulative impacts of development in the entire Bow Valley region.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- The Banff Bow Valley Study Task Force will provide the Minister of Canadian Heritage with a final report of its recommendations in June, 1996. Further amendments to the Banff National Park Management Plan may then be required. Members of the public will be invited to participate throughout the Banff Bow Valley Study. The study is an opportunity to create a common vision for the Bow Valley amongst all interested parties. The Banff Bow Valley Study will address economic, social, and environmental challenges facing the valley.

2. Bryant and Egypt Trail Shelters

Parks Canada proposed to close these facilities due to the environmental impacts and the cost required for the operation and maintenance of the shelters.

Here is what we heard:

The respondents to this issue were clearly individual members of the general public. There was slightly more support for keeping these two shelters open than closed (not quite a 2:1 ratio). Many respondents, besides offering suggestions for keeping these shelters open, suggested user fees to help defray the maintenance costs.

Many people questioned Parks Canada's facts and double standards of development. Many do not believe the facts presented are true (i.e. that these shelters use 10% of the Parks' backcountry budget, that these shelters are environmentally damaging, particularly when compared to other developments, and that wildlife is negatively displaced and impacted.)

Parks Canada's Comments:

- Pending the results of the Banff Bow Valley Study, shelters will continue to be provided at Bryant Creek and Egypt Lake. Unless specific problems are identified through the study, current shelters will be replaced with new structures in the same general locations. The facilities will be operated on a cost recovery basis by Parks Canada.
- The cumulative environmental and social conditions in heavily used areas such as the Bryant Creek and Egypt

Lake areas will be investigated to determine appropriate overall use levels and the appropriate balance between day, camping and roofed accommodation use.

3. Commercial Horse Outfitters

Parks Canada proposed an assessment of the amount, location and management of commercial horse outfitting in the park and its environmental impact.

Here is what we heard:

This issue received a great number of comments as a direct result of a letter writing campaign. Of respondents who support commercial horse outfitting in the national parks, the vast majority of those were from the letter campaign.

Apart from the campaign, there were three common streams of thought. The largest number of comments suggested that Parks Canada should allow commercial horse outfitters in the national parks but with conditions and restrictions. The other two streams were about equal in support:

- do not allow any commercial horse outfitters in the parks, and
- allow commercial horse outfitters in the parks without restrictions.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- The amount, location and management of commercial horse outfitting in Banff National Park will be reviewed with respect to environmental impacts and backcountry visitor experience prior to the 1999 Park Management Plan review. The results of the Banff Bow Valley Study will be taken into consideration as part of this review, along with more detailed scientific studies and public comment.

- The park will continue to licence only two resident commercial horse outfitters and permit only two organizations to operate rotating group camps in the backcountry. Parks Canada will work with outfitters and non-profit organizations to address the environmental impacts associated with these operations and ensure a sustainable, quality visitor experience is available in the backcountry areas in which they operate.

- Existing arrangements for semi-permanent group camps and moving pack trips will continue until 1998. During this period, a clause will be added to the semi-permanent group camp agreements limiting the maximum number of horse-nights at these facilities to a level equal to the 5-year average of actual use between 1990 and 1994 (inclusive), in order to contain impacts within existing levels while studies are being carried out.

4. Lake Louise Community Action Plan

Parks Canada prepared a draft update to the 1979 (Low Growth) Lake Louise Action Plan which confirms the maintenance of Lake Louise as a Visitor Service Centre while strictly limiting commercial and residential growth. The plan and update were presented for public review during the Four Mountain Parks planning process.

Here is what we heard:

The issue of the Lake Louise Action Plan generated a great deal of public comment. Public opinion on the issue of the **West Louise Lodge (Wapta Lodge) Land Exchange** was evenly split “for and against”. This issue was influenced by a letter writing campaign which was taken into consideration for the final analysis of the results. Others suggested that Parks Canada should entertain the proposal for the exchange only if there was a net environmental gain to Parks Canada.

On the specific topic of the **Low/No Growth Policy for Lake Louise** there were two streams of thought. There were more comments which emphatically supported Parks Canada’s current no growth policy for development in Lake Louise than there were comments which suggested that the Lake Louise Action Plan be reopened to allow further development in Lake Louise. In many cases, this latter support for development included support for the West Louise Lodge land exchange, the upgrading of nearby ski hill facilities and limited support for the building of a proposed convention centre at the Chateau Lake Louise.

Parks Canada’s Comments:

The Village of Lake Louise is included in the area being studied by the Banff Bow Valley Task Force. The task force was appointed to study the Bow Valley from the East Gate of Banff National Park to the source of the Bow Valley watershed. Parks Canada is proposing to put on hold any further activity associated with the Lake Louise Action Plan, in order to allow the Banff Bow Valley Task Force to complete their work, which includes research and public consultation.

Once the Banff Bow Valley Study has reported its findings in 1996, the Lake Louise Action Plan will be re-examined in accordance with the recommendations made by the task force. In the interim, proposals for further development in Lake Louise e.g. West Louise Lodge, will be put on hold and no amendments to the land use plan will be permitted until the completion of the Banff Bow Valley Study.

5. Housekeeping Items

Remove reference to Two Jack Lake canoe concession

The Two Jack Lake canoe concession was closed by the operator in 1989.

Here is what we heard:

The respondents agree with the proposed amendments.

Parks Canada’s Comments:

- The reference to a canoe concession at Two Jack Lake will be removed from the plan.

Modify reference to directing growth outside park

The current management plan directs the growth of new facilities and services to be located outside the park.

Here is what we heard:

The entire development/no development issue should be inherent in the discussion of directing growth outside the parks. Several other issues of the Four Mountain Parks Review also address this topic.

Those who commented directly on this issue believe that redirecting growth is a good approach and there should be no more development in the national parks.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- Redirecting growth outside parks will be a joint decision reached with adjacent land management authorities. The Banff National Park Management Plan will be amended to reflect this commitment to collaborative planning.



Re-evaluate "no impact" reference to scuba diving

This re-evaluation was intended to address concerns with respect to the impact on underwater cultural resources at Lake Minnewanka.

Here is what we heard:

Respondents believe that scuba diving has no adverse effects on national parks and should not be a restricted activity.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- Scuba diving will continue to be permitted in Lake Minnewanka and Two Jack Lake. Parks Canada will work with the diving community to eliminate the observed impact of diving activities on underwater cultural resources.

Describe status of Banff townsite

On January 1, 1990 the Town of Banff was incorporated as a municipality in the province of Alberta in accordance with the federal/provincial Town of Banff Incorporation Act.

Here is what we heard:

The respondents agree with the proposed amendments.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- The Banff National Park Management Plan will be amended to reflect the incorporation of the Town of Banff.

Winter use of Moraine Lake Lodge

A proposal was made to Parks Canada to keep the Moraine Lake Lodge open in winter.

Here is what we heard:

The vast majority of respondents who commented on this issue agree with the amendment that Moraine Lake Lodge should not be opened nor used in the winter.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- Parks Canada will not maintain the Moraine Lake road during the winter months or undertake control of avalanches along the road. Winter use of Moraine Lake Lodge may be considered, but will be subject to this limitation on access and cost recovery.

Others:

Bison paddock

The existing plan indicates that the Bison Paddock would be removed with the completion of the Bison recovery program. In response to concerns raised by the Banff/Lake Louise Tourism Bureau, a revised strategy with respect to the Bison Paddock has been developed.

Pending the results of the Banff Bow Valley Study, a Plains Bison display herd will be retained in Banff National Park. Maintenance at the facility will be subject to recovery of all associated costs.



East gate information centre

The management plan for Banff National Park mentions the development of an information centre at the east gate of the park.

Here is what we heard:

Respondents have reservations about building an East Gate Centre. Some respondents suggest never building the centre while others suggest doing so if it is outside the national park and done in a low key fashion.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- In the long-term, careful consideration will be given to any mountain parks visitor information centre in the vicinity of the Banff east gate. Such a facility would be developed and operated in partnership with other interested agencies as well as Jasper, Kootenay, Yoho and Mt. Revelstoke/Glacier national parks.

Jasper National Park



1. Lake Edith Development

Parks Canada proposed to establish a set of operating principles to ensure that the use of the Lake Edith area remains consistent with Parks Canada policy.

Here is what we heard:

The vast majority of the respondents to this issue do not want any further housing or development in the Lake Edith cottage area. Many suggest further measures to deal with the area's development: do not allow year round housing; consider an eventual phase out of the area by not reassigning leases; national parks should be public not privately owned; and cottages' residents must fall under the standard "need to reside" clause.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- As confirmed in Parks Canada's 1994 Guiding Principles and Operational Policies, the Lake Edith cottages will be recognized as a resort subdivision in the management plan. The Lake Edith Leaseholders Association will provide representation for its members and will operate as the community advisory group to the park superintendent. Jasper National Park will work with the association to establish planning and operational guidelines to ensure the use of the area remains consistent with its traditional role in the park.

2. Maligne Canyon Hostel

The current management plan states that the Maligne Canyon hostel will be removed and replaced by a new hostel within the Jasper townsite.

Here is what we heard:

There was overwhelming support, an approximate 5:1 ratio, for keeping the Maligne Canyon Hostel open.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- The Maligne Canyon Hostel will continue to operate at its existing capacity. It is a popular base for visitors to the Maligne valley and provides a unique park experience.





3. Housekeeping Items

Change description of Curator Lake Lodge from a horse camp to a backcountry lodge

Here is what we heard:

The majority of respondents to this issue agreed that the references to Curator Lake Lodge as a horse camp should be changed to classify it as a backcountry lodge. Other comments addressed the general issue of horse outfitting.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- The 1988 management plan mistakenly describes the Curator Lake Lodge as a horse camp. Since its establishment in the 1930s the lodge has operated as a backcountry lodge. All references to the Curator Lake facility as a horse camp in the management plan will be amended to recognize it as a backcountry lodge.

Re-examine need for Pyramid Bench area plan

Here is what we heard:

Comments suggest that the public does not want any more development in the Pyramid Bench area. It was indicated that, if allowing other approaches to planning for the area would 'open the door' to development, the respondents to the issue would not agree with the Plan amendment.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- Planning for the Pyramid Bench will proceed through a collaborative process. This approach allows for open representation from all interests and stakeholders in developing a shared vision for the area. The area will not be opened for further development.

Kootenay National Park



1. Outfitter's Access

Parks Canada is proposing to address the practice of allowing outfitters and their clients to use backcountry trails to gain access to surrounding provincial lands.

Here is what we heard:

The vast majority of respondents who commented on this issue indicate that Kootenay National Park should not be used for access to hunting grounds or adjacent provincial parks, and that firearms and game transport should be prohibited.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- The outfitters and general public who presently access areas outside the park via the Simpson River Trail will not be permitted to transport firearms and/or wildlife through this corridor.

2. Settler's Road

An analysis to find alternative options to meet the needs of all parties using Settler's Road is in progress. The results of this analysis may require a plan amendment.

Here is what we heard:

The majority of comments support keeping Settler's Road open with restrictions to commercial truck access on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- The use of Settler's Road by both commercial truck traffic and park visitors will be managed through a collaborative agreement between the commercial users and Parks Canada. Commercial access will continue to be restricted on weekends and holidays.
- Parks Canada does not at this time intend to upgrade the park's section of Settler's Road.

3. Housekeeping Items

Bus tour use patterns and facility requirements

The current management plan states that Parks Canada will consider modifying existing facilities to meet the anticipated increase in bus tour operations.

Here is what we heard:

There was only one stream of thought on this issue and that was: Parks should not provide facilities for commercial groups, including bus tours.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- Given public opinion and that anticipated traffic use did not increase, the existing guideline on use patterns and the requirements of tour bus operators will remain unchanged. The guideline currently states: "Where appropriate, the Parks Service will respond to identified needs, however, no new facilities will be developed to meet the specific needs of this user group."

Provide flexibility in type of information provided at warden's offices

The current management plan states that public information will be provided at warden stations, particularly in the northern end of the park.

Here is what we heard:

Because of the low response to this issue, and the wide range of responses received, the comments cannot be summarized into common categories or opposing views.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- The Marble Canyon Warden Station at the northern end of Kootenay National Park has been closed since 1990. Consequently, providing information at this warden office is no longer possible. However, Parks Canada recognizes the importance of providing contact with the public in the northern end of the park, and information will continue to be provided at the Marble Canyon Information Centre during the summer.

Review decision to phase-out Marble Canyon picnicking area

Here is what we heard:

The vast majority of comments regarding this issue indicate that park users want the Marble Canyon picnic area to remain open.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- The phase-out of the Marble Canyon Picnic Site, was originally proposed due to perceived congestion and user conflicts. The site continues to be used with few reported problems and will not be phased-out at this time.

Review feasibility of Kootenay Ponds picnic site

Here is what we heard:

The respondents to this issue agreed that a picnic site at Kootenay Ponds is not needed and should not be developed.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- Construction of a picnic/day use area at Kootenay Pond, is no longer being considered by Parks Canada. The Park Management Plan will be amended accordingly.



Review feasibility and sensitivity of Dolly Varden trail

Here is what we heard:

The majority of respondents agreed with the proposed amendment that a formal trail from the Dolly Varden picnic site to the Kootenay River should not be constructed.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- Trail development at the Dolly Varden Picnic Site and at Kootenay Pond, is no longer being considered by Parks Canada. The Park Management Plan will be amended accordingly.

Yoho National Park



1. Boundary Access

The Ice and Amiskwi valley areas adjacent to Yoho National Park are experiencing on-going resource development and increased access. Concern has been expressed as to the effect of these activities on the park.

Here is what we heard:

The majority of respondents indicated that boundary access is an issue that must be addressed. Two main points indicated that park integrity must be made a priority and Parks Canada must work cooperatively with provincial governments and surrounding agencies to develop an access strategy.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- Parks Canada will continue to work cooperatively with the province of British Columbia to develop a coordinated access management strategy.
- The completion of a backcountry management plan and ecosystem management strategy for the Four Mountain Parks will also help address access concerns.

2. Housekeeping Items

Appropriate development and visitor use in the west end of the park

The current management plan discusses several development concepts in the west end of the park.

Here is what we heard:

The most frequent comments supported closure of Wapta Falls road. Support for the development of the Leancoil Marsh was evenly split for and against as were comments about the development of Chancellor Peak campground.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- Many of the development concepts discussed for the west end of Yoho National Park in the 1988 plan are no longer being considered by Parks Canada due to aesthetic, environmental, and financial considerations.
- Still under consideration is a new day-use facility in the Hoodoo Creek campground area and development of improved trail linkages. Wapta Falls road will be closed and converted to a bicycle trail.

New hostel in Yoho with reference to new hostel in Field townsite.

Here is what we heard:

There was support for having a hostel in the Townsite of Field, with many people commenting that it should be put into an existing facility.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- The 1988 Park Management Plan supported the provision of low-cost roofed accommodation along the Trans Canada Highway. Generally, this is still supported; however, the location of accommodation such as a hostel will only be considered within the Community of Field. Additionally, the facility must be of a high standard and occupy either an existing facility or re-develop an existing lease.

Remove references to new Alpine Club hut in Lake O'Hara area.

Here is what we heard:

From the comments received, there was almost complete support for the continued use of the Elizabeth Parker Hut, assuming that its use was not detrimental to the immediate area.

Parks Canada's Comments:

- The 1988 Park Management Plan provided for the Alpine Club of Canada to construct a new facility outside the O'Hara meadow on a less environmentally-sensitive site close to the Lake O'Hara Road.
- Plant protection and recovery in the O'Hara meadow and new human waste handling facilities at the Elizabeth Parker Shelter have made the continued use of this facility acceptable.



III. Next Steps



The next step in the plan review is to incorporate further comments you may have on the amendments presented in this newsletter into the Four Mountain Park Management Plan Update. The update will be written as an addendum to the Banff, Jasper, Kootenay, and Yoho management plans and presented to the Minister of Canadian Heritage for tabling in Parliament in 1995. There has been a great deal of interest in the plan review process. In order to accommodate comments arising from this newsletter in a timely manner, any further comments must be received by **January 31, 1995** at the following address:

Public Consultation Coordinator
Department of Canadian Heritage - Parks Canada
P.O. Box 2989, Station M
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 3H8

Copies of the approved Four Mountain Parks Management Plan Update will be available in the spring of 1995 through Parks Canada and in libraries across the country. Copies will be provided on request to members of the public on a cost recovery basis.

The next Four Mountain Parks Management Plan Review is scheduled for 1999, and is expected to be more comprehensive in scope than the current update.





Canada

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Four Mountain Parks
FIVE YEAR PLAN UPDATE

SPRING 1994



Canada

AUSSI DISPONIBLE EN FRANÇAIS



Canadian Heritage
Parks Canada

Patrimoine canadien
Parcs Canada



4 MOUNTAIN PARKS



MOOR LAKE ON OPABIN
PLATEAU IN THE
RENOUNDED LAKE
O'HARA VALLEY, YHO



THE LEGACY

Banff, Jasper, Kootenay, and Yoho national parks encompass an ecologically significant portion of the Canadian Rocky Mountains. Part of the largest connected protected area in the Rocky Mountains of North America, they occupy a land mass four times the size of Prince Edward Island. Their 20,160 square kilometres of the "Western Cordilleran Biome" protect portions of the Western, Main, and Front Ranges of the Rockies. Together with the adjacent Mt. Assiniboine, Hamber and Mt. Robson provincial parks in British Columbia, they are a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site.

A rich diversity of natural ecosystems and cultural heritage features are protected within the four mountain parks, including the 325 km² Columbia Icefield, the internationally renowned fossil beds of the Burgess Shale, 10,500-year-old cultural sites, natural habitats varying from harsh alpine outcrops to lush montane woodlands, an assemblage of wildlife populations unsurpassed in North America, and the Cave and Basin hot pool—the birthplace of Canada's system of national parks. The parks are crossed by two transcontinental railways and two major through-highways.

Banff, Jasper, Kootenay, and Yoho are widely respected as members of our national park family. Among Canada's most popular international tourism destinations, they are visited by more than seven million people each year.

The preservation and protection of our national parks is an evolving trust that reflects the changing goals, values, and aspirations of Canadians. Public perception of the role and purpose of the Four Mountain Parks has shifted considerably since their establishment. Canada has become a more prosperous and knowledgeable nation with greater sensitivity to ecological considerations. We have become more aware of the importance of healthy natural environments for both our personal well-being and our economic welfare.

The landscape and ecology of the parks have been shaped by earlier management practices, practices that reflected Canada's social beliefs and priorities. As we move forward, it is important for us to recall the ways in which the parks' resources have been managed over the years. Our past interaction with these rugged mountainous areas is as much our legacy as the natural features themselves.

~ 1880-1910 ... *The Railway Years*

- Hot springs near present-day Banff are set aside in 1885. Yoho Park Reserve created in 1901. Jasper Forest Reserve declared in 1907. Park and townsites established following routes of transcontinental railways.
- Parks seen as islands of development in a sea of wilderness.
- Dominion Parks Branch formed. The areas of Banff and Jasper parks reduced.
- Parks management guided by "doctrine of usefulness" with a focus on logging, mining, hydro-electric development, and recreation.

~ 1911-1930 ... *Resource Development*

- Kootenay established in 1920 as result of agreement with B.C. to build a road from Windermere to Banff.
- Park boundaries re-defined: Spray Lakes and the towns of Canmore and Exshaw excluded while western boundaries extended. Some townsites closed.
- Management focus on resource development continues. National Parks Commissioner J.B. Harkin introduces the "principle of inviolability," which promotes the concept of parks as wilderness preserves for all Canadians.

~ 1930s ... *The National Parks Act*

- Natural resource extraction no longer permitted. Parks to be preserved in their natural state for the public to enjoy in perpetuity.
- The Act establishes a dual mandate to meet recreational demands while maintaining parks in their natural state.
- Parks seen and managed as natural museums.

~ Post Second World War ... *Increasing Use, Rising Tourism*

- Demand for outdoor recreational activities heightened as a result of secure economies, high birth rates and growing affluence.
- Aggressive road-building programs initiated.
- Policy established to extinguish timber berths in parks. Final buy-out of mining operations occurs in Yoho in 1968.
- Scientific approach to natural area management emerges. Initial focus is on single species and resources within park boundaries through such efforts as predator control programs.
- Parks seen as playgrounds and recreational areas.

*"There it lay,
for the time being
all ours—
those miles of peaks
rising above us,
one following
the other,
each more beautiful
than the last."*

—MARY SCHÄFFER,
1908, ON THE AREA
AROUND MALIGNE LAKE"



GOAT KID

*"National parks
exist in order ...
that we may stock
our minds
with the raw material
of intelligent
optimism,
great thoughts,
noble ideas;
that we may be made
better, happier,
and healthier."*

JAMES B. HARKIN,
COMMISSIONER OF
NATIONAL PARKS,
1911-36

~ 1970s-1980s ... *Shift to Protection*

- Pressure increased to preserve the wilderness character of the parks. National Parks Policy is developed (1979).
- Scientific principles increasingly applied to natural resource management.
- *In Trust for Tomorrow*, a framework for the management of the Four Mountain Parks, is prepared with public input. This framework becomes the basis of detailed park management plans.
- Parks seen as islands of wilderness in a sea of development.

~ 1988 ... *Ecological Integrity*

- Management plans for the Four Mountain Parks completed with about 93% of their area designated as "Zone II -Wilderness." Visitor use to be concentrated in the major transportation corridors.
- Amendments to the 1988 *National Parks Act* make ecological integrity the first priority in preparing park management plans.
- Growing awareness that parks cannot be adequately managed as "wilderness islands," as they are intimately connected to the larger landscape in which they rest.

~ Today ... *Ecosystem-based Management and Environmentally Sustainable Tourism*

- Planning and management based on natural resources of the parks is shifting to decision-making based on integrated ecosystem considerations.

- Islandization of the parks, changes in adjacent land use, and global environmental changes are some of the challenges to the long-term health of the regional ecosystem.
- Parks Canada's focus is on providing environmentally sustainable tourism opportunities. The maintenance of ecological integrity is the first priority in determining levels of use and development.



THE CHALLENGES

The Four Mountain Parks have always faced challenges; management practices have evolved in response to these challenges. Such is the case today. We have begun the transition to a new way of thinking, a new way of doing business. It is a wholistic approach: Integrating sound principles of ecosystem science with social values and community needs to forge a sustainable future for the parks. Ecological integrity will anchor the process, recognizing that the sciences from which it is borne are incomplete and cannot provide all the answers. Only by integrating human values and concerns with scientific know-how can the parks continue to be managed on a long-term, environmentally sustainable basis.

The ecosystems of the Four Mountain Parks are affected by activities occurring both inside and outside park boundaries. They are also affected by changes of a global nature.

Inside the parks, townsite growth, individual project development, increased year-round use, and heightened visitor demands are concentrated in the montane regions of the valley floors. These areas contain some of the rarest and most important habitats in the parks.

Outside the parks, lands are increasingly subject to resource development and recreational pressures. The area's ecosystem is fragmented by motorized access, both by land and air; resource extraction; and a growing number of development projects. These factors tend to isolate the parks from the surrounding landscape and disrupt the ecological processes on which they depend.

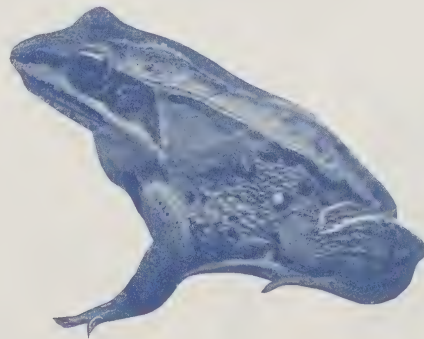
On a global scale, climatic shifts brought about by the emission of greenhouse gases and increased ultraviolet radiation due to a thinning of the ozone layer bring ecological stresses of unknown magnitude. The global decline of many migratory song bird and amphibian populations illustrates the need for worldwide environmental concern.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

In addition to their ecological attributes (and attendant challenges) the Four Mountain Parks also make a substantial economic and social contribution to the area. The Four Mountain Parks are an important resource for Canada's tourism industry. Effective liaisons must be maintained with the tourism industry to ensure the quality of visitor experiences and to contribute to sustainable regional tourism strategies.

*In the creation
of a sustainable
economy, ecological
integrity will be
a central concern.*

Parks Canada's management practices must reflect a full understanding of the parks' role as an important source of economic activity for the region and the provinces. In the creation of a sustainable economy, ecological integrity will be a central concern. Investing in the ecology of the Four Mountain Parks, for example, can be seen as a prudent long-term economic decision, for it ensures their continuance as secure natural areas and as sources of pleasure and learning for a local and worldwide audience.



WOOD FROG



HIKERS NEAR BOW
SUMMIT, NORTH OF
LAKE LOUISE

A FUTURE FOR THE FOUR MOUNTAIN PARKS

An effective response to these challenges—ecological, economic, and social—requires new approaches. Over the course of the review process, stakeholders will have the opportunity to debate the future of the Four Mountain Parks and to find a common ground for discussion. Only through co-operative effort can we mobilize the energies and resources necessary to ensure that the parks contribute to the sustainability of regional ecosystems, and remain unimpaired in the future.

*“An ecosystem
is important
because
it conveys
one of the key
insights
that we have
gained from the
science
of ecology:
everything is
related
to everything
else.”*

A PRIMER ON
ENVIRONMENTAL
CITIZENSHIP,
ENVIRONMENT
CANADA

THE IMPORTANCE OF ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT

The Four Mountain Parks are representations of our natural heritage, and exist for their intrinsic value within a larger regional ecosystem. Their long-term ecological health depends on the health of the larger ecosystem. Parks Canada's mission in managing the Four Mountain Parks is to increase understanding, appreciation, and respect for natural ecosystems and cultural heritage.

The 1988 amendments to the *National Parks Act* have strengthened Parks Canada's focus on “the maintenance of ecological integrity through the protection of natural resources.” It is recognized that Banff, Jasper, Kootenay, and Yoho cannot be managed as four distinct entities. Instead, Parks Canada is committed to administering the Four Mountain Parks as a protected area in an ecosystem that stretches well beyond individual park boundaries.

Accomplishing this requires shared vision and commitment among many diverse interests. It is hoped that an understanding of the principles of ecosystem-based management can assist in the development of a shared vision for the parks. Here are the principles:

1. Take an integrated approach

Ecosystem-based management requires a broad perspective, encompassing social, economic and ecological considerations. Environmental and economic systems are interdependent in today's

world; one cannot exist without the other. It is possible for the two systems to accommodate each other with understanding, appreciation and respect.

2. Look at the big picture

The consequences of decisions cover a wide geographical area. Consideration is given to what is best for the park ecosystem as a whole, instead of concentrating on the effect on an individual park. The focus is shifted from asking, "what can be done to protect the parks?"

to "what can be done to protect the larger landscape and ecosystems of which they are a part?"

3. Get Involved with Others

Parks Canada is only one of the agencies whose actions affect the regional ecosystem. The development of effective working relationships and mutual respect among the various jurisdictions and agencies is essential to sustain ecosystem health.

4. Treat the Cause and Manage the Symptoms

With an ecosystem-based park management approach, the symptoms of ecological stress are addressed but attention is primarily focused on eliminating their cause. Frequently, alarm is not expressed about ecosystem health until physical changes are observed (e.g. loss of species) or a direct threat is experienced (e.g. toxic pollution). Because of the way ecosystems respond to stress, the root causes of problems are usually well-advanced before the symptoms appear.

*Environmental
and economic systems
are interdependent;
in today's world,
one cannot exist
without the other.*

5. Base Actions on Knowledge

Good decisions, and the management actions that flow from them, require a well-founded knowledge base. Such knowledge is drawn from various sources including universities and government research projects, local and traditional knowledge, and is slowly accumulated over time. The complexity of natural ecosystems precludes ever having all the knowledge we need to make perfect decisions.

6. Be Adaptive

We do not fully understand the ecosystems affected by our decisions. Therefore, we must closely monitor the results of management actions and be prepared to respond to the monitoring program.

7. Encourage Environmental Stewardship

For the most part, ecosystems themselves are not managed. It is the human activity and behavior affecting ecosystems that requires management.

*"... the stupendous
and solitary
Wilds covered with
eternal Snow,
and Mountain
connected
to Mountain by
immense Glacier,
the collection of Ages
and on which
the Beams of the Sun
make hardly any
impression ..."*

DAVID THOMPSON,
1807

SKIERS ON THE WAPTA
ICEFIELD, YOH0



The basis of environmental stewardship is learning how we, as a society and as individuals, have an impact on ecosystems, and then changing our behavior to prevent harmful effects.

8. Encouraging Environmental Citizenship

Environmental citizenship is defined as a personal action based on environmental knowledge. It is founded on the belief that all people have environmental rights, privileges, and obligations. As Canadians, we have the right to a clean and healthy world. It is through first-hand experience of protected heritage areas that Canadians can develop an attachment to, and sense of responsibility for, our natural and cultural heritage. It is this sense of attachment that can translate into long-term changes in environmental values and attitudes. To be effective, a wide cross-section of the public must understand, value and advocate the concept of protected areas, sustainable development and ecosystem-based management.



ALPINE POPPY



THE PLANNING PROCESS

How it works...

After an extensive planning exercise with nation-wide public involvement, the management plans for Banff, Jasper, Kootenay, and Yoho were approved in 1988 by the federal minister responsible for the national parks. The plans were subsequently tabled in the House of Commons in 1989.

Management plans are written to provide direction for a park over a 15-year period. *The National Parks Act* requires that the minister responsible review management plans every five years. This plan update marks the first of these five-year reviews. Instead of being treated individually, the plans are being examined together to co-ordinate the planning and management of the Four Mountain Parks as a unified landscape within a larger ecosystem.

The current update marks the beginning of an extensive examination of the management plans. The formation and implementation of ecosystem-based management, together with input from this five-year update, is expected to generate the science and know-how to help conduct a thorough revision of the management plans and practices in 1999. This five-year update, intended to address concerns requiring immediate attention, is our first step toward this revision.

The update will be a co-operative undertaking with input by Parks Canada, key stakeholders, and the public.

This newsletter has been prepared to publicly announce the plan update and solicit public involvement. The following is a schedule of activities which have, or will be, undertaken to complete the plan update:

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Summer/Fall 1993

- Parks Canada completes an internal review of all four management plans.
- Data collection takes place in support of the plan reviews. Activities included assessing the progress of plan implementation; conducting a national environmental citizenship attitudinal survey; and addressing issues related to ecosystem-based management.

Winter/Spring 1994

- Results of the internal review are circulated to key stakeholders and the general public through the first newsletter.
- Display forums and open houses take place in order to collect and record public comment.
- Study of Bow Valley in Banff National Park initiated. This study aims to examine the effect of existing development within the valley as a baseline for predicting the potential implications of future development. Public involvement is an important part of this integrated study, expected to address ecological, social, and economic factors.



Summer 1994

- Public input analyzed.
- Public involvement continues and second newsletter is distributed.

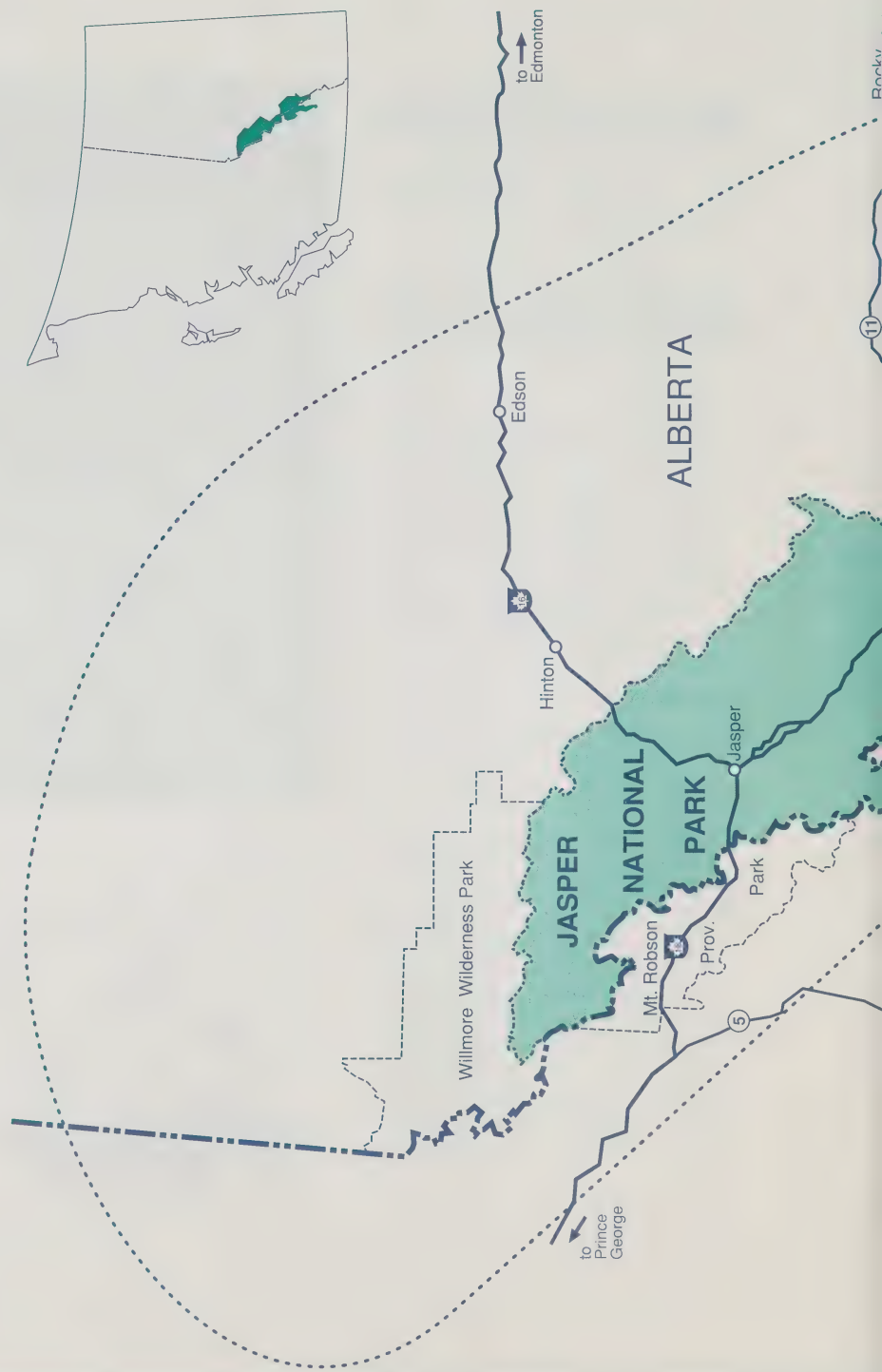
Fall/Winter 1994

- Third newsletter distributed.
- Parks Canada recommends plan amendments to the minister for his consideration.
- Approved amendments tabled before House of Commons.

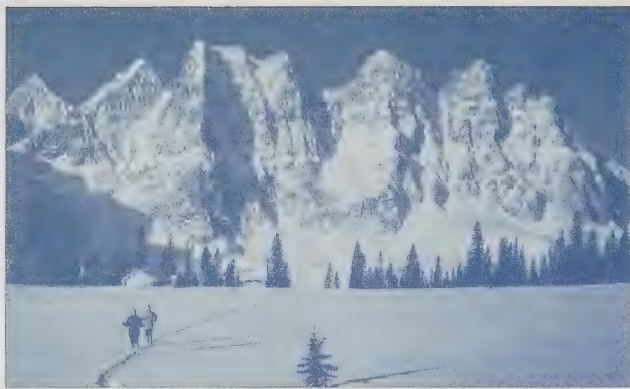
THE HEADWATERS OF
THE VERMILION RIVER,
KOOTENAY



4 MOUNTAIN PARKS AND SURROUNDING GREATER ROCKIES ECOSYSTEM







SKIERS IN THE TONQUIN
VALLEY, JASPER

PARKS CANADA'S FOCUS

Studies, surveys and public input indicated that the current management plans for the Four Mountain Parks, while requiring some revision, continue to enjoy broad overall support. The plans' fundamental direction continues to reflect Parks Canada's mandate for the protection of our natural and cultural resources. As a consequence, Parks Canada's focus in the current five year update will be directed towards:

- Measuring progress in the implementation of the 1988 plans.
- Evaluating the plans in the context of changing environmental, social, and fiscal conditions.
- Initiating ecosystem-based management.

INFORMATION COLLECTED TO DATE

In preparation for the management plan update, Parks Canada has undertaken a number of initiatives.

Ecosystem Management Strategy: An ecosystem management and monitoring strategy for the Four Mountain Parks is being developed. The strategy is founded on sound principles of wilderness and park management, and reflects the latest findings in ecological and environmental sciences. The strategy will provide the scientific basis for decision-making on zoning and the management of visitor activities in the parks.

Attitudinal Survey: A nation-wide survey has been conducted to obtain a better understanding of the views of Canadians on the purpose and values of national parks. The survey findings provide insight into public support and understanding of the national parks mandate.

Future Scan: Parks Canada is conducting a long-range scan to identify major economic, social, and environmental trends and forces which will affect park operations in the future.

Review Criteria

Parks Canada's internal review of the management plans for the Four Mountain Parks identified a number of items requiring amendment. These items have been subjected to the following criteria to determine their urgency and their relevance to the five-year update:

- Is it a change made necessary by the 1988 amendments to the *National Parks Act* or national Parks Canada policies?
- Is it an update made necessary by the completion of plan initiatives or new information collected through planning exercises and other programs over the past five years?
- Is it an issue that the Minister responsible for National Parks has directed Parks Canada to address in the review?

Applying these criteria, a list of potential amendments for the five-year update has been assembled. The list is divided into three categories of amendments:

(1) those applicable to the Four Mountain Parks as a block; (2) amendments specific to each of the parks; and (3) routine or housekeeping amendments required to update the implementation status of the plans.

ISSUES UNDER REVIEW FOR THE FOUR MOUNTAIN PARK BLOCK

1. Vision statement: At present there is no formal vision for the Four Mountain Parks that recognizes them as a single, interconnected natural area. An endorsed statement expressing the role of the Four Mountain Parks in their regional context and within the national park system is required.

A nation-wide survey was conducted to obtain a better understanding of the views of Canadians on the purpose and value of national parks.

2. Ecosystem-based management:

Amendments to the *National Parks Act* in 1988 placed priority on maintaining ecological integrity. Parks Canada is committed to developing an ecosystem-based management strategy and employing it as the basis for decision-making.

3. Regional integration:

The Four Mountain Parks reside within a larger environmental, political, social, and economic landscape. Parks Canada's role as a regional partner needs to be expressed and formalized.

4. Develop a Sustainable Tourism Strategy:

The Four Mountain Parks, since their establishment, have been an important element of Canada's

tourism industry. They contribute significantly to the economic, social and spiritual well-being of Canadians, Albertans and international visitors.

As demand grows for ecologically and culturally sensitive tourism, the role of the Four Mountain Parks will be critical in demonstrating that this can be managed in an ecologically sensitive manner. Parks Canada's focus will be on providing environmentally sustainable tourism opportunities. The maintenance of ecological integrity will be the first priority in determining levels of use and development. Parks Canada will work closely with the tourism industry to develop a sustainable tourism strategy that ensures a high-quality visitor experience.

"Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it.

Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself."

CHIEF SEATTLE OF THE DWAMISH NATION, 1853



BOW LAKE ALONG THE
ICEFIELDS PARKWAY,
BANFF

5. Fiscal restraint: The federal government's long-term commitment to fiscal restraint will influence the scope and nature of park management. Priorities for park expenditures need to be established. Alternative means of delivering necessary services and programs must be explored. The development of revenue generation and retention strategies (i.e., keeping monies collected in the park for park purposes) is part of the process of managing within fiscal realities.

6. Backcountry Management: Following the update of the management plans, principles to be used in directing a consistent backcountry plan for the parks need to be established.

7. Park Access: Uncontrolled air and land access from outside the park represents a challenge to the wilderness character of the area. Management strategies addressing this problem are required.

ISSUES UNDER REVIEW FOR EACH PARK

BANFF NATIONAL PARK

Bow Valley Study

Parks Canada is initiating a Bow Valley Study intended to give special emphasis to the Bow Valley within the context of the Four Mountain Parks Plan Update. The study will provide the Minister with recommendations for the long term management of the area in a manner which will achieve the maintenance of ecological integrity, while allowing appropriate levels of development and access for visitors. The study will include the Banff National Park Bow Valley watershed from Bow Lake to the Banff East Gate. Generally speaking, Parks Canada will not, for the duration of the study, entertain new development proposals in the Bow Valley of Banff National Park. Proposals and initiatives which are currently under consideration will continue to be assessed through the Environmental Assessment and Review Process. The study objectives are:

- to develop goals and a vision for the Bow Valley in Banff National Park that brings together ecological, social and economic values;
- to complete a comprehensive analysis of existing information and to provide direction for the future collection and analysis of data required to achieve the goals; and

- to provide direction on the management of human use and development in a manner which will maintain the ecological integrity of the Bow Valley and provide for sustainable tourism.

A committee of experts will guide the process, which will include public consultation, through to its scheduled completion in April 1996. Study recommendations may result in amendments to the Banff National Park Management Plan.

Bryant and Egypt Trail Shelters

Parks Canada is proposing to close these facilities due to the environmental impacts and the cost required for the operation and maintenance of the shelters.

Commercial Horse Outfitters

An assessment of the amount, location and management of commercial horse outfitting in the park and its impact on the environment is required.

Canadian Pacific's Land Exchange Proposal

Canadian Pacific Limited has submitted a proposal to return particular leases and freehold lands to the crown in exchange for development approvals. The proposal includes proposed golf course expansion and a new meeting facility at the Chateau Lake Louise. The proposal will be subject to an environmental impact

assessment. Canadian Pacific Limited will be responsible for providing the opportunity for a full and open public discussion of the proposal.

Lake Louise Community

Parks Canada has prepared a draft update to the 1979 (*Low Growth*) *Lake Louise Action Plan* which confirms the maintenance of Lake Louise as a Visitor Service Centre while strictly limiting commercial and residential growth. The public will have an opportunity to review this draft plan.

Highway 1A west of Lake Louise

Parks Canada proposes to close this road to motor vehicles and have it reverted to

a bicycle trail standard due to its low use and the high cost of required improvements. The maintenance of vehicular access from Yoho National Park to the Great Divide will be considered.



Banff airstrip

The current plan states that the airstrip will be used only for emergency/diversionary purposes. A four-year monitoring program of the airstrip has revealed that there has been no requirement for emergency landings, and only infrequent recreational use by local residents. Options need to be developed and examined on the future role of this facility (in conjunction with a review of the airstrip in Jasper National Park).

"... the stupendous and solitary Wilds covered with eternal Snow, and Mountain connected to Mountain by immense Glacier, the collection of Ages and on which the Beams of the Sun make hardly any impression ..."

DAVID THOMPSON,
1807

Housekeeping¹ Items for Banff National Park's management plan

- Review reference to Two Jack Lake canoe concession.
- Re-evaluate "no impact" reference to scuba diving.
- Modify reference to directing growth outside park.
- Re-evaluate reference to winter use of Moraine Lake Lodge with respect to public safety concerns.
- Describe status of Banff townsite.
- Describe co-operative nature of proposed East Gate Centre.
- Update reference to staff housing in light of national review.

JASPER NATIONAL PARK



Lake Edith development

Parks Canada proposes to establish a set of operating principles to ensure that the use of the Lake Edith area remains consistent with parks policy.



Maligne Canyon hostel

The current plan states that the Maligne Canyon hostel will be removed and replaced by a new hostel within the Jasper townsite. This statement will be reconsidered due to the service provided by the hostel as a staging area for hikes in the valley.



Jasper airstrip

The current plan states that the airstrip will be used only for emergency/diversionary purposes. A four-year monitoring program of the airstrip has revealed that there has been no requirement for emergency landings, and only infrequent

recreational use by local residents. Options need to be developed and examined on the future role of this facility (in conjunction with a review of the airstrip in Banff National Park.



Canadian Pacific's Land Exchange Proposal

Canadian Pacific Limited has submitted a proposal to return particular leases and freehold lands to the crown in exchange for development approvals. The proposal includes proposed golf course expansion.

¹HOUSEKEEPING REFERS TO AMENDMENTS OF A MODEST NATURE REQUIRED TO KEEP THE MANAGEMENT PLANS CURRENT.

The proposal will be subject to an environmental impact assessment. Canadian Pacific Limited will be responsible for providing the opportunity for a full and open public discussion of the proposal.

Housekeeping Items for Jasper National Park's management plans

- Change description of Curator Lake Lodge from a horse camp to a backcountry lodge.
- Re-examine need for Pyramid Bench area plan.
- Update reference to staff housing in light of national review.

KOOTENAY NATIONAL PARK

Outfitter's Access

Parks Canada is proposing to address the practice of allowing outfitters and their clients to use backcountry trails to gain access to surrounding provincial lands.

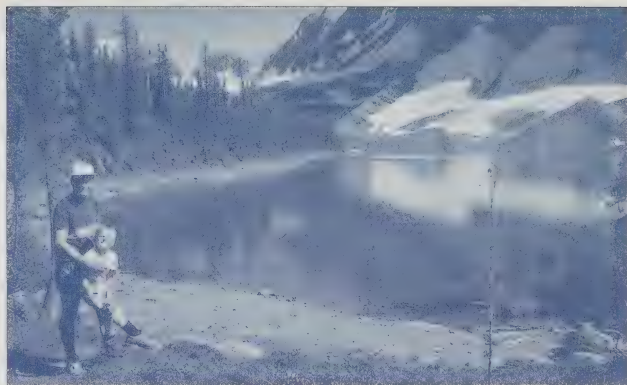
Settler's Road

An analysis to find alternative options to meet the needs of all parties using Settler's Road is in progress. The results of this analysis may require a plan amendment.

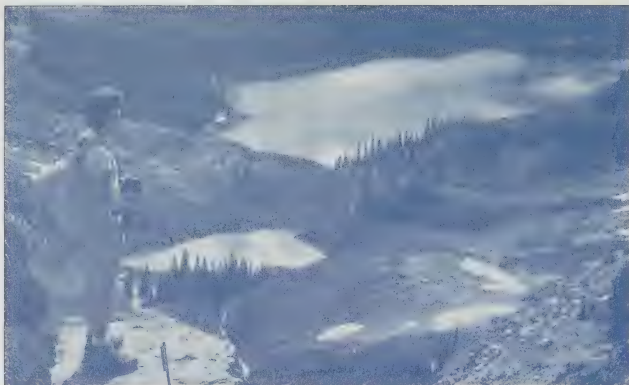


Housekeeping Items for Kootenay National Park's management plan

- Determine use patterns of bus tours.
- Review feasibility of Kootenay Ponds picnic site.
- Review feasibility and sensitivity of Dolly Varden trail.
- Provide flexibility in type of information provided at Warden's offices.
- Review decision to phase-out Marble Canyon picnicking area.
- Update reference to staff housing in light of national review.



HIKERS AT FLOE LAKE,
KOOTENAY



WHAT FUTURE HAS THIS
LANDSCAPE? LAKE
O'HARA, YOHO

YOHO NATIONAL PARK

Boundary Access

The adjacent Ice and Amiskwi valley areas are experiencing ongoing resource development and increased access. Concern has been expressed as to the effect of these activities on the park. Parks Canada proposes to work cooperatively with provincial agencies to develop an access management strategy.

Highway 1A west of Lake Louise

Parks Canada proposes to close this road to motor vehicles and have it reverted to a bicycle trail standard due to its low use and the high cost of required improvements. The maintenance of vehicular access from Yoho National



Park to the Great Divide will be considered.

Housekeeping Items for Yoho National Park's management plan

- Insert reference to appropriate development and visitor use in the west end of the park.
- Replace reference to new hostel in Yoho with reference to new hostel in Field townsite.
- Remove references to new Alpine Club hut in Lake O'Hara area.
- Update references to staff housing in light of national review.



PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Concerned individuals, agencies, and organizations are invited to participate in the review of the management plans for the Four Mountain Parks. Public comment is one of the most important sources of ideas and information feeding into the plan review process. Parks Canada has collected a substantial body of information and has identified a number of issues for review. Now we need your input and involvement if we are to be successful in ensuring the optimal management direction for the parks in the years to come.

Public comment will be reviewed primarily for the ideas, critiques and suggestions contributed, rather than for numbers supporting or opposing particular positions. Your comments are vital to

the analysis and deliberation of review issues, and will be subject to the same levels of care, consideration, and scrutiny as all other aspects of the planning process.

The public process will be guided by principles of responsibility, full disclosure, timeliness, advance notice, respect, and accountability. You may choose to make your views known in writing, over the phone, or in person. Whichever method you use, your comments will be treated in the following consistent manner:

Comments relating directly to the plan amendment process will be compiled, analyzed, summarized, and made available to the public. Names and addresses provided will be added to the management planning mailing list.

Comments relating to the implementation of ecosystem-based management will also be compiled, analyzed, summarized, and made available to interested parties. Names and addresses provided will be added to the mailing list.

Comments relating to other consultation programs occurring at the same time as the five-year update (such as the Trans-Canada Highway twinning project, Bow Valley Study, etc.) will be referred to the Parks Canada public consultation co-ordinator so that they can be compiled and considered. Names and addresses provided will be added to the appropriate mailing list.

*Your comments
and input
are a vital contribution
to the analysis
and deliberation of
review issues.*



GET INVOLVED!

There are several ways you can take part in the plan reviews:

- Write your comments down on the enclosed comment sheet (or use a blank piece of paper).
- Call or fax the Four Mountain Parks Planning Program toll-free lines.
- View information displays in park information centres.
- Attend one of the open houses taking place in and near the parks.
- Contact Parks Canada via our Four Mountain Parks Internet user address.

*"Nobody made
a greater mistake
than he who
did nothing
because
he could do
only a little."*

EDMUND BURKE
(1729 - 1797)



CAMBRIAN TRILOBITE FROM
THE MOUNT STEPHEN FOSSIL
BED, YOHO



YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

How can I comment on the contents of this newsletter?

Please fill in the enclosed comment sheet (or use spare sheets of paper) and either fax or mail it to the public consultation co-ordinator. You can also leave your comments on our toll-free line or use our Internet address.

Deadline for public comment is **July 15**.

How can I make sure that my name and address are on the appropriate mailing list?

Please print your name, address and phone or fax number clearly on a sheet of paper, specify the program(s) you are interested in (Four Mountain Parks Plan Update, Bow Valley Study, or other programs) and return it to the public consultation co-ordinator.

How can I get more information?

Please write down your questions or specify the additional information you require, and contact the public consultation co-ordinator via mail, phone, fax or Internet.

When and where are the open houses?

Open houses are planned in several communities in and near the Four Mountain Parks. Dates, times and places will be advertised in local newspapers. Contact the public consultation co-ordinator for more details.



WHO TO CONTACT

Reminder: Deadline for comment is July 15, 1994.

Public Consultation Co-ordinator
Parks Canada
P.O. Box 2989, Station "M"
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 3H8

Toll-free phone: 1-800-651-7959
Local calls: 292-4299

Toll-free fax: 1-800-651-7951
Local fax: 221-3462

Internet address:
4MtnParks@pkswro.dots.doe.ca

Thank you for participating!



PAINTED LADY BUTTERFLY

FOUR MOUNTAIN PARKS PLANNING PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER #1

MARCH, 1994

COMMENT COLLECTION REGISTRATION NUMBER:

HC/CPS-C1935

DESIGNED BY:

ALICE ENGELMORE & ALISON MIYAUCHI

4 CORNERS COMMUNICATIONS

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